329.01
P961b

"THE BRIGHTEST DAY OF REPUBLICANISM".

By

Jeter Conley Pritchard

North Carolina State Library
Raleigh

NORTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

The Brightest Day of Republicanism"

ADDRESS OF

HON. J. C. PRITCHARD

livered Before the Republican State Convention at Greensboro, N. C., August 28, 1902

"When the Constitutional Amendment was adopted by the people of the State assed out of the realm of politics, and if Senator Simmons, Gov. Aycock and the er leaders of the Democratic party meant what they said two years ago there can no such thing as a race issue in this State."

329.01
P961b

"BRIGHTEST DAY OF REPUBLICANISM"

HON. J. C. PRITCHARD

It is highly gratifying to have the pleasure of addressing the large and intelligent audience which greets me on this occasion. We have at last reached that period in our history as a state when the issues raised in a political campaigns ought to be considered from a purely business standpoint. In order that we may act intelligently when we come to cast our votes in November next, it is highly important that each citizen in the state should study the various questions that are presented to us for our consideration, and in attempting to reach a correct conclusion as to which political party is entitled to our support we should carefully consider the records of the two political parties within the past few years.

It is not my purpose to review our political history as a nation, beyond President Harrison's administration, feeling as I do that such an effort on my part would cast but little light upon the present situation and would necessarily be a needless waste of time that could be more profitably employed in another direction.

All will remember the splendid con-

dition of our governmental affairs, as well as the general prosperity which pervaded every section of this country during the administration of President Harrison. Our manufacturing industries were being rapidly developed, and the southern people, during that period, made more real progress than they had made during any period subsequent to the late civil war. Our circulating medium had gradually increased until it had reached the sum of $25 per capita. In 1892, at a time when the country was in the midst of peace and plenty, the American people for some reason which has never been explained, placed the control of our government in the hands of the democratic party. The election that year resulted in the selection of a democratic president, a democratic house of representatives and a democratic senate. President Harrison's administration had been crowned with success from every standpoint, and when he turned over the government on March 4th, 1893, every department was in first class condition. We had not only been able during his administration to meet every obligation of the government, and on the first day of March, 1893, there was a cash balance in the treasury of $24,128,087.88, as well as a gold reserve fund of $100,000,000. Thus it will be seen that Mr. Cleveland assumed control of our affairs under most favorable conditions. His party had control of both branches of congress, the country was at peace, both at home and abroad, his administration inherited no vexed question. You may search both ancient and modern history, and you will not find an instance wherein a political party ever assumed control of the affairs of a government under conditions as favorable in every respect as those that obtained when Mr. Cleveland took the oath of office.

Beginning of "Hard Times"

Those of us who live south of Mason and Dixon's line had been told by the democratic leaders of the south that the one thing necessary to make the happiness of the American people complete and perpetual would be to give their party a president and a good working majority in both branches of congress. You no doubt remember the eloquent appeals that have been made to you in the past by the distinguished democrats who have represented North Carolina in congress. It is true they have not sung exactly the same tune during each campaign. Sometimes it was the internal revenue laws, sometimes it was local self-government, sometimes it was free silver, then again it was the tariff, and occasionally it was the "nigger," but the chorus has always been: "The country can never resume its normal condition until the democratic party is placed in power." For some reason or other, as soon as it became known that Mr. Cleveland had been elected president, and that our democratic friends had been entrusted with the control of both branches of congress, matters began to go wrong throughout the country. Those who were investing their capital in manufacturing enterprises called a halt, and those who were in a position to do so began to withdraw the money which they had loaned in various sections of the country, and by the time the democratic congress had developed its un-American policy, evidences of unrest were to be found in every state in the union. Our protective policy had enabled our country to grow and prosper in a marvelous degree after the close of the war, but our democratic friends while out of office and while committed to the policy of opposing everything, had declared in opposition to the protective tariff system, and as soon as the senate and house committees were organized they began a systematic attack upon American industries, which culminated in the adoption of what is known as the Wilson-Gorman tariff bill, the most pernicious piece of legislation of the kind that has ever been enacted into law by the American congress. The result of this piece of legislation is well known to every one who is at all familiar with the events which transpired between March 4, 1893, and the date of President McKinley's inauguration. The Wilson-Gorman bill aimed a deadly blow at almost every industry in which the American people were interested, and especially those industries which the southern people had at that time just begun to develop. As a result of this unwise legislation, together with the mismanagement and incompetency of the democratic party, every branch of human industry was more or less injured, and in some instances completely ruined. The laboring man who had theretofore been employed at remuner-

ative wages was unable to secure work at wages that would enable him to feed and comfortably clothe, much less educate, his family. Thousands of laboring men were thrown out of employment and compelled to tramp the country over in search of work. The farmer was unable to sell his products for a sufficient amount to defray the expense of the cultivation of his crops. Almost every manufacturing insititution was compelled to curtail its output, and in some instances a majority of them were compelled to cease operations. There was not a branch of human industry that escaped the terrible consequences that naturally followed as a result of the policy which our democratic friends inaugurated. The circulating medium, which had been $25 in 1892 under a republican administration, had decreased until the amount of money in circulation was only $21.10 per capita. The gold reserve fund had at times been as low as $50,000,000, and had only been maintained by the government borrowing the enormous sum of $262,000,000.

When we think about the condition of the United States treasury at the time the democratic party turned over the reins of government to Mr. Lincoln, we are reminded of the fact that history repeats itself, and we are afforded a forcible illustration of the fact that the democratic party is not capable of successfully administering the affairs of this government. At that time our treasury was bankrupt, and we had been borrowing money in the markets and paying therefor in many instances as high as 12 per cent. While our condition in 1896 was not quite as bad as in 1860, at the same time, if our democratic friends had been given a little more time, I am sure they would have been able to have sustained their well earned reputation as government wreckers. That the democratic party was directly responsible for the condition of the country at that time no one can deny. The leaders of that party had advocated certain political theories at every election since the war, chief among them being that of free trade, or, as they termed it, tariff reform. They had denounced protection as robbery in its worst form, and had told the people that if they would only entrust them with the control of all branches of the government they would legislate so as to enable the people to purchase their wearing apparel, as well as other articles, for nominal prices, and that, on the other hand, they would, by some mysterious plan, flood the country with an amount of money which would enable every citizen to keep his pockets well filled with cash at all seasons of the year without any great inconvenience on his part. This was an attractive theory, and one that was well calculated to mislead thousands of the best people throughout the country.

While there was genuine rejoicing among the people who had cast their votes in favor of the democratic candidates when it became known that they had carried the country, at the same time there was wailing and gnashing of teeth among the democratic leaders who were at last brought face to face with the proposition of putting into practical operation the many wild and impracticable theories which they had advocated prior to that time. So long as they could go upon the stump and oppose any and everything, and deal in generalities, their task was an easy one. Before that date their policies had been obstructive. They were then called upon to inaugurate a policy that was to be constructive, one that would require a high order of statesmanship. As an opposition party, they had been a great success, but when placed in control of affairs, where they were required to do something, the result was quite different. In framing the Gorman tariff measure they ignored almost every American industry, in order to satisfy the demands of those engaged in similar enterprises in foreign lands. They preferred the lumber of Canada to that of the lumberman living in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia; they preferred the mica of India to the mica of the people of Mitchell, Yancey and other counties in North Carolina; they preferred the wool of Australia to that of the people of the United States; they preferred the baled hay of Canada to that of Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and other states; they preferred the rice of foreign lands to that of North and South Carolina; they preferred the manufactured goods of England to the American product. In a word, they framed the Wilson-Gorman

NORTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

tariff bill in such a manner as to discourage, and in many instances completely demoralize and destory American industries; while, on the other hand, this policy encouraged and enriched those who were engaged in developing the industries of foreign lands.

A Desperate Remedy

In 1896 the people of the United States were confronted with the proposition as to whether they would continue in power the party which had made such a complete and dismal failure in its efforts to manage our affairs, or whether they would again return to power those who advocated the principles and policies of republicanism. The democrats nominated as their standardbearer Hon. W. J. Bryan of the state of Nebraska, a gentleman of high character and honesty of purpose, who advocated many things that were thoroughly impracticable, and many of which, if adopted, would have brought shame and humiliation upon the American people. The platform adopted by our democratic friends was different in many respects to any political platform that had heretofore been adopted by any political party in this country. It was an attack upon everybody and everything in general, and contained many things calculated to appeal to prejudice rather than reason. Its attacks upon the courts of the land were especially unfortunate, in that it had a tendency to encourage a spread of lawlessness and anarchy throughout the country. While it was perhaps not intended to, at the same time it encouraged those who are opposed to all form of government, and especially that class of people who believe that everything in this country ought to be owned in common.

Another Remedy

The republican party, on the other hand, nominated as its standardbearer Hon. William McKinley of the state of Ohio. He was in many respects the most attractive man who had participated in public affairs since the foundation of our government. He was a high-toned Christian gentleman possessed of a kindly disposition, which rendered him universally popular among all classes of people, regardless of party affiliation. The republican party adopted a platform which declared in favor of the enactment of such legislation as would again restore confidence throughout the country. It also declared in favor of a sound currency.

The democrats, on the one hand, insisted that there could be no substantial improvement of existing conditions until we secured the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1. For the time being, they attempted to discard evry other issue, and took the position that the silver question was the paramount issue, and that while they advocated the other things contained in their platform, all matters should be relegated to the rear until the proposed legislation could be enacted into law. They said that what the country needed was an increase in the circulating medium. They were forced to admit that under their own administration the circulating medium had decreased until it was at a low ebb, but, on the other hand, they insisted that the only way to increase the circulating medium was to provide for the issuance of a greater volume of money. This was a theory that was plausible, to say the least of it.

The republicans, on the other hand, met the issues thus presented in a bold and defiant manner. They declared that it would be unwise for this country, without the consent of other nations, to undertake the free and unlimited coinage of silver. They argued that what the country needed above all other things was a restoration of public confidence and a reopening of the mines and factories, which would give employment to the laboring men at remunerative wages and bring from its hiding place the vast amount of capital which had been withdrawn from active circulation on account of the alarm and apprehension which had been created in the minds of the business men of the country by the unwise and vicious legislation which had been enacted during the four years rule of democracy.

The issue was drawn in a clear and unmistakable manner, and the American people were afforded a full and ample opportunity to thoroughly investigate all questions growing out of the issue raised by the two political parties. The contest was a spirited one. Mr. Bryan canvassed the entire country, while, on the other hand, Governor McKinley remained at home and from his front porch addressed the thousands

who went there from all sections of the country. The keynote of McKinley's speeches was that we must restore public confidence reopen the mines and factories, and, instead of creating markets in foreign lands, we should turn our attention to the conditions which surrounded every class of human industry at home; that we should so legislate as to enable the American people to develop every section of the country.

The contest resulted in the election of a republican president and house of representatives but did not give the republicans a working majority in the senate. However there were a number of senators who, while in full accord with the president, appreciated the critical situation of affairs, and for the time being, left their political associates and sustained President McKinley in his efforts to place our financial and industrial affairs upon a safe basis.

Restoration of Prosperity

As soon as President McKinley was inaugurated he at once began the task of securing the enactment of such legislation as would enable him to manage our affairs so as to restore prosperity to the American people, in accordance with the principles enunciated in the St. Louis platform. The Wilson-Gorman tariff bill was repealed and the Dingley law enacted in its stead. It afforded ample protection to every branch of human industry. The interests of the lumberman, the manufacturer, the farmer, the rice grower, the miner, the merchant, the mechanic and every other individual who was engaged in doing anything which was calculated to add to the wealth and glory of the American people were given protection. While the evidence of the disasters that followed as a result of the election of Mr. Cleveland was made apparent from the day after it was known that the democrats had carried the country, on the other hand, from the day it was known that McKinley had been elected, evidences of the good results that were to follow in the wake of republican victory were to be seen on every hand, and even before Mr. Cleveland had gone out of office there was a general revival of business throughout the country in anticipation of what the American people well understood would be the policy of the incoming administration. As a result of republican legislation, the people of the United States have been more prosperous within the last five years than they have ever been within the same length of time since the establishment of the government. There has been no class of people in any state or territory who have not been greatly benefited by the general improvement in business affairs. The rice grower of North Carolina has realized better prices for his product than ever before.

When the republican party came into power it found the mica industry almost completely destroyed, and today not only good grades, but even inferior grades of mica are bringing splendid prices, and the people of Mitchell, Yancey and other counties are greatly benefited by our policy with respect to this product. During the consideration of the Dingley bill thousand of business men, many of whom were North Carolina democrats, plead with congress for a restoration of the duty on lumber. Their appeals were not made in vain, and as a result the lumber trade has made great strides in the south. Referring to this subject, the Baltimore News of recent date says: "The New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin has compiled a table showing that during the ten years from 1890 to 1900, the aggregate value of the products of the lumber industry increased $128,885,605. Of this gain the thirteen southern states furnished three-quarters. * * * Recently large tracts of southern timber land have been purchased by northern operators, and they are now arranging to develop them on an extensive scale. The southern forests contain several varieties of lumber well known in northern markets, besides many beautifully marked hardwoods suitable for cabinet work and inside finishing. There are vast areas of such land in the south, and the indications are that for many years this industry will be one of the most profitable in Dixie."

Every scrap of lumber is sold at prices far in excess of any figures heretofore realized. More cotton factories were built in North Carolina last year than in any state in the union.

In this connection I desire to call attention to the following statement which appears in Senator Simmons' address

before the democratic state convention: "Never in all our history have so many industrial enterprises been organized, especially in this state, in the same length of time as during these three years under democratic control. Never in all history have so many corporations and business associations been formed and chartered in the same length of time as during the last year under the democratic administration." The senator seeks to create the impression that these enterprises have been established in North Carolina on account of the confidence which the people have in the present democratic state administration. There is not the slightest ground upon which to base the assumption which my distinguished friend makes with respect to the industrial development that is now being made throughout our state. He knows very well that the democratic administration has had nothing to do with the financial affairs of the country, and that no legislation which could be enacted by a state legislature could in the slightest degree affect the business interests of the country one way or the other ,except in so far as the state legislature might by stringent and unfriendly legislation drive from our midst many who would otherwise engage in the development of our section.

However, Senator Simmons is unfortunate in his reference to the number of corporations that have been organized under democratic administration. I call attention to the following statistics, taken from the report of the secretary of state, with respect to the number of corporations chartered in the state of North Carolina from July 1, 1893, to March 4, 1902. It is impossible to furnish a complete report for the year 1893, owing to the fact that prior to the 1st day of July of that year corporations were chartered before clerks of the Superior courts in the various counties in the state, and it would be difficult to secure the necessary information through these channels, and I therefore content myself by taking the report from July 1, 1893, which gives us three full years and eight months of Cleveland's administration, wherein the democrats were in absolute control in all branches of the national government, as well as every branch of our state government. I first call attention to the three years and eight months of democratic rule, which is as follows:

	Corporations chartered.
From July 1, 1893, to March 4, 1894...	49
From Mar. 4, 1894, to Mar. 4, 1895...	121
From Mar. 4, 1895 to Mar. 4, 1896...	161
From Mar. 4, 1896, to Mar. 4, 1897...	127
Total number incorporated	458
Under McKinley's administration:	
From Mar. 4, 1897, to Mar. 4, 1898...	159
From Mar. 4, 1898, to Mar. 4, 1899...	147
From Mar. 4, 1899, to Mar. 4, 1900...	269
From Mar. 4, 1900, to Mar. 4, 1901...	303
Total	878

It will be observed by reading the foregoing tables that there were 420 more corporations chartered under four years of republican rule than were chartered during the same length of time under democratic rule. In other words, there were nearly twice as many business enterprises inaugurated during the four years of McKinley's administration than were organized during Mr. Cleveland's administration.

In this connection I also call attention to the fact that from March 4, 1901, to March 4, 1902, there were 355 corporations chartered, an amount almost equal to the number chartered during the four years of democratic administration.

In order to be able to pay what the senator conceived to be a tribute to the state administration, he was forced to admit facts enough to forever damn his party in the estimation of the people of North Carolina, in so far as the administration of national affairs is concerned. One would infer from Senator Simmons' speech that there had been no increase in manufacturing or industrial enterprises in North Carolina until the democratic state administration was inaugurated. The public records disclose the fact that from the day President McKinley took the oath of office until this good hour, there has been a constant and steady development of every industry from the mountains to the seashore, and it has all been in consequence of the fact that the people of North Carolina realize that our affairs as a nation are in the hands of a party which is capable and trustworthy. It is a notable fact that our credit as a state was never better than during Governor Russell's administration, and thousands of dollars were invested in

our midst during that period. These are facts that cannot be overcome by those who now seek to raise the false cry of negro domination.

Our railroad business is more than fifty per cent. better in every way than during President Cleveland's administration. Many furniture factories and woodworking establishments have been organized throughout the state, the splendid waterpowers of western North Carolina are being rapidly developed. On every hand and in every place within our borders are to be seen indisputable evidences of enduring prosperity.

The republican party has been equally fortunate in its control of the affairs of the national government. On the first day of July the cash balance in the treasury of the United States was $208,630,022.64. The excess of receipts over disbursements for the year is also very large, and the treasury surplus of $92,193,190.33 is larger than any year since 1888. The gold held by the treasury was $559,301,051, an increase of $6,600,000 since June 1st. Excluding from these figures the trust and reserve funds, the treasurer has on hand, included in available cash subject to the calls of disbursing officers $102,191,062, against $96,554,392 one month ago.

The national bank currency within the past year has increased nearly $2,000,000, and the amount of standard silver certificates, bullion and subsidiary silver has increased from $32,000,000 to $39,000,000, and the government funds in national bank depositories has increased from $101,000,000 to $129,000,000. The circulating medium on the first day of July was $28.40 per capita. These are the conditions which the republican party promised in 1896, and it is for the people of North Carolina to say as to whether they are willing to again vote to entrust the democratic party with the control of our affairs in view of the many false prophecies they made with respect to the calamities that would be visited upon the American people in the event that the republican party should be successful.

While we have been deprived of the splendid leadership of our beloved President McKinley, who was stricken down by the hand of an anarchist, and while there is universal regret at the great loss which we as a people have sustained in the death of the eminent statesman, devoted husband and Christian gentleman, whom the people loved so dearly and whose death they mourned so deeply, at the same time it is fortunate for the American people that we have at the head of our affairs today one who typifies in the highest degree that which constitutes American statesmanship. President Roosevelt is in full sympathy with and a firm believer in the principles of the republican party. His courage and honesty of purpose are sufficient guarantees as to the safe and intelligent conduct of our affairs in the future.

Our democratic friends seek to raise once again the false issue of imperialism. Many weeks were consumed during the present session of congress in a fruitless discussion of what is known as the civil government bill for the control of the Philippine islands. The Congressional Record is filled with abusive attacks upon the American soldiers who have been sent to these islands for the purpose of upholding the honor and integrity of the nation and enforcing obedience to the mandates of our government. The democratic leaders in congress have sought to create the impression that the republican party is responsible for the alleged misconduct of the American soldiers who have been endeavoring to restore law and order in the Philippine islands. Much time during the consideration of the civil government bill was occupied by democratic senators in the delivery of speeches full of abuse of the American soldier; but, strange to say, these gentlemen uttered no word of condemnation of the many cruelties and brutal outrages committed upon the American soldiers by the Filipinos. Not a question was asked by a democratic senator which was calculated to elicit evidence as to the barbarous treatment of our soldiers, nor were there any questions asked by them which had a tendency to sustain the honor and integrity of the American government. On the other hand, they appeared as the prosecutors of the American soldier, representing the Filipinos, and plead their cause with the energy and devotion that is usually displayed by the paid attorney in behalf of his client.

On the 22d day of February Representative Cannon offered an amendment to the urgent deficiency bill which read as follows: "For the proper shelter and protection of officers and enlisted

NORTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

men of the army of the United States, lawfully on duty in the Philippine islands, to be expended in the discretion of the president, $500,000.00." Here was a proposition which had for its object the protection of the American soldiers in foreign lands, but I am sorry to say that, while there are many brave boys from North Carolina now doing service in those islands, yet every democratic congressman from our state voted against it.

The late Amos Cummings, who was at that time a member of the house of representatives, in discussing this amendment, among other things said:

"Mr. Chairman:—The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Hay) has seen fit to allude to a remark which I made on the floor of this house yesterday as the vote was being taken on an amendment to this bill providing for the shelter and protection of our troops in the Philippines. The Record quotes me thus: 'When I fail to vote to protect the lives of American soldiers in the service of the American republic, I hope I shall be paralyzed.' I did not print the remark which induced me to make this declaration. When I rose to vote for the amendment a member of the house near me said: 'What are you doing? why don't you sit down? Sit down!" I made the reply on the spur of the moment, and when I reflect on it I glory in it. (Applause on the republican side.)

"Mr. Chairman, I meant every word of it. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Cannon), having charge of this urgent deficiency bill—this emergency bill—was appealed to by the secretary of war to insert in it a provision to protect the American soldier in the Philippines from the ravages of disease—deadly fevers and pestilence. Why? Because the rainy season was coming on and they had no adequate shelter. It was the truth. Ah, Mr. Chairman, I have not forgotten the rainy season of last year, when the columns of our American newspapers were filled with long lists of soldiers who had died in these islands from loathsome fevers for lack of proper shelter.

"I have seen the sad faces of the American mothers whose sons were the victims of these miasmatic fevers. I have seen their tears and heard their moans. I would be untrue to every drop of blood in my body if I refused to respond to such an appeal for the protection of soldiers in the service of the republic. It was an appeal on behalf of American women whose sons are still fighting the battles of the republic in these islands. I would blacken the Revolutionary blood coursing in my veins if I stabbed these American mothers to the heart by refusing to vote for this appropriation for the shelter and protection of their sons." (Applause on the republican side.) * * *

Mr. Cummings was a lifelong democrat, and the language which he used on that occasion correctly portrayed the urgent necessity for the appropriation; but, strange to say, the majority of the leaders of the democratic party in congress did what they could to prevent the adoption of this amendment which meant so much to the sick soldiers who were languishing in hospitals in a foreign land. It only shows to what extent the leaders of the democracy will go in their efforts to secure partisan advantage by attempting to manufacture a fictitous issue upon which they can go before the people for re-election.

Change of Front

This policy was kept up until within about two weeks before the adjournment of congress, at which time it dawned upon our democratic friends that they had made a fatal mistake in attacking the army, and suddenly they changed front, and from that time until congress adjourned democratic members and senators devoted most of their time in attempting to convice the American people that they had not been engaged in an attack upon the army.

This is but another evidence of the fact that our democratic friends are not safe advisers, and that they cannot be trusted to formulate anything like a political policy that is calculated to permanently benefit the American people. The position of the republican party with respect to the Philippine question is well known. We bought and paid for the Philippine islands, and we own them as much as we own any other territory. We propose to retain them and to give their inhabitants the very best form of government suitable to their necessities as a people. The acquisition of this territory by our government will in the end result in

more substantial benefit to the south than all other sections of the country combined. What we need is a market for our surplus cotton and cotton fabrics, and the Orient is a country whose people are by climate and habits the natural customers of the cotton planters of the south. In the Orient we can find a ready market for our surplus raw cotton as well as our cotton fabrics, and the southern man who stands in the way of the extension of our trade in that direction is either very shortsighted or willing to sacrifice the best interests of this section in order to create a political issue. Our people are especially interested in the policy which is being pursued by the government with respect to our trade in the Orient. They have suffered much in the past on account of not being able to secure a suffcient market for their cotton and cotton fabrics. The extension of our trade into the Orient is the solution of the problem with which we have been contending for a quarter of a century. Being in the gateway to the Orient is not the only feature which renders these islands desirable. When we come to consider the possibilities of our future trade with their people there is every reason why we should give our hearty support to the policies advocated by the republican party with respect to them. The total importation of cotton and cotton goods to those islands for the twelve months ending June 1, 1901, amounted to $9,510,307. Of this total the United States furnished the small amount of $127,325. These figures are surprising, but true. Those islands imported $9,382,982 worth of cotton and cotton goods from countries other than the United States in 1901. Is it not reasonable to assume that when our commerce with those islands is firmly established, as it will surely be at an early date, the south will furnish the greater portion of $9,382,982 worth of cotton and cotton goods which has heretofore been furnished by other countries, as well as supply the greatly increased demands of the people for our cotton goods caused by the islands' development.

Senator Simmons, in his convention speech, in discussing the tariff question, said: "In the campaign of this year the tariff and trusts are inseparably connected." In an interview in the Washington Post on the 7th day of last September, among other things, he made the following statement: "So far as the south is concerned, at least, the democrats recognize the silver question is temporarily eliminated from national political affairs. I do not say that it is a dead issue, but I do say that it must slumber for a few years. In my opinion the big issue in the next campaign will be the tariff. I think it will be more talked of and will cause a closer drawing of lines than anything else." * * *

Order of Things Reversed

It is amusing to hear the leaders of the democratic party in North Carolina say that the silver question, which was the only real live issue which the democrats offered in 1896, is dead and required "to slumber for a few years." According to Senator Simmons, the order of things this year is to be just the reverse of what it was in 1896. At that time the tariff question was an embarrassing one for the democrats to handle, and they asked us to let it slumber for a while, and they continued to let it slumber, until they imagine the people have forgotten the many heartaches and financial wrecks that were directly due to the free trade legislation which had been enacted by them while they were in power. Now that we are in a more prosperous condition than we have ever been in the history of the nation, as a direct desult of republican legislation with respect to the tariff question, we are respectfully invited by our democratic friends to abandon the policy of protection and once more follow the leadership of the party whose avowed object is to prefer the trade of foreign nations to that of America—a policy which will necessarily result in great injury to the wage earners of this country, as well as the destruction of our manufacturing interests, the two things upon which the nation is dependent for its future greatness. The south can ill afford to adopt the suggestions of the democrats of North Carolina in regard to the tariff question. There is no other section of the United States where the adoption of such a policy would be more injurious to the welfare of the people than that of the south. We have more undeveloped wealth than all other sections combined. We possess the great bulk of the raw material of the United States, and if the policy

of free trade should ever be adopted in this country it will come as a result of the combined efforts of the southern democrats and certain manufacturers of the New England states. I fear that the time will come, if it is not already here, when some of the manufacturers of the New England states will find it to their advantage to have free raw material, and of course it will be but natural for them to agree with southern democrats to the extent of taking the tariff off the raw material, the most of which is to be found in the south. The great desire of the New England manufacturer is to do that which will enable him to increase his capital, and thereby build up the section in which he resides. On the other hand, the great desire of the average democrat is to secure political preferment, and I have no doubt it has occurred to Senator Simmons that by advocating tariff reform he can enlist the support of the New England manufacturers for the democratic party in the nation. I can understand why the New England manufacturer might be benefited by such an arrangement, but I cannot understand how it is to benefit those who are attempting to develop the manufacturing interests of North Carolina. It may be that some of our democratic business people will contend that I am mistaken when I say that tariff reform is but a step in the direction of free raw material, and in order to remove all doubt as to the matter, I desire to quote from two distinguished gentlemen, one of whom had the high honor of being elected twice by his party to the office of president, the other of being twice nominated for that exalted position, and are, I presume, as well calculated to declare the true democratic doctrine with respect to the tariff as any democrat now living. President Cleveland, in a letter dated July 2, 1894, among other things, said: "It is quite apparent that this question of free raw material does not admit of any middle ground, since the subjection of any rate of tariff taxation is alike violative of democratic principles and democratic good faith."

Mr. Bryan also emphatically declared that the only way to make progress in the direction of tariff reform is to "free from taxation the raw materials which lie at the foundation of our industries." Senator Simmons says that the tariff will be the leading question in the next campaign, and Mr. Bryan says that the only way to make any progress in the direction of tariff reform is to "free from taxation the raw materials which lie at the foundation of our industries."

North Carolinians, what do you think of the proposition? Mr. Bryan's notion is indeed a monstrous one, and I am sure that the people of this state will condemn it in no uncertain manner whenever an opportunity is afforded them to pass upon the question. Other sections of the country have become prosperous in consequence of our protective tariff laws, and have accumulated their millions, and now that they are in the full enjoyment of the blessings incident thereto, it would be inequitable and unjust for the United States to adopt a policy of tariff reduction which would necessarily carry with it a general reduction in the prices of all raw material, the most of which is to be found in our section.

"Negro Domination"

When we call attention to the splendid achievements of the republican party in the nation, and point with pride to the many blessings that have followed in the wake of republicanism, we are met by the statement that the white man is in danger of being overcome by the negro. We were told by the leaders of the democatic party two years ago that the adoption of the constitutional amendment would mean freedom of thought, and that in the near future the race question would be eliminated. Thousands of patriotic white men were induced to vote the democratic ticket at the last election upon the idea that the adoption of the amendment would enable them in the future to act intelligently with respect to the great financial and economic questions of the day, but it seems that we are doomed to disappointment in this respect, in so far as certain leaders of the democratic party are concerned. Senator Simmons a few weeks ago issued a statement to the people of the state in which he undertook to show that he had discovered a plot by which colored people are to rise up during the month of October, and completely demolish the white people of the state. It is not my purpose on this occasion to undertake to answer in detail the absurd statement which he has seen fit to make, but there are some features of the question to which I de-

sire to allude briefly. He says that the negro question can never be settled in North Carolina until the republicans will agree that in the future no effort will be made to test what is known as the constitutional amendment. The issuance of the document to which I refer did not create any excitement in any quarter, in so far as I can learn. His manifesto fell flat, and has been the subject of much ridicule and merriment among the small boys in the different sections of the state. The Statesville Landmark, one of the leading papers of the state, in speaking editorially of Senator Simmons' manifesto, among other things said:

"The reply of Senator Simmons to Senator Pritchard, published today, shows that the senator-chairman is determined to inject the negro issue into the campaign this year. The Landmark thinks under the circumstances the democratic party owes it to itself to have done with color line at least until it is shown that question is a live one. This pledge was made the people from every stump in the campaign of 1900, and there is nothing in sight at present to justify the party in disregarding the pledge.

"We may be mistaken but we are firmly of the opinion that the campaign orator who raises the ghost of negro domination in Western North Carolina this year will not find the enthusiasm which a discussion of the race issue was wont to invoke in former campaigns. Instead, the danger is that such discussion will produce a disgust and in difference which will do much to promote that independence among democrats which has so alarmed Senator Simmons."

During the consideration of the amendment two years ago, Senator Simmons circulated a statement which was signed by 162 prominent lawyers, the first paragraph of which is as follows: "We, the undersigned lawyers, members of the North Carolina bar, after having examined and considered the provisions of the proposed amendment to the constitution submitted by the legislature of 1899 to the people for ratification, give it as our opinion that the said amendment is not in conflict either with the State or Federal constitution." This statement was signed by such lawyers as Hon. James E. Shepherd, Judge MacRae, Col. H. C. Jones, Edward Pou, Lee S. Overman, Theodore F. Klutz, John S. Henderson, T. G. Skinner, M. H. Justice, and others. and met with the hearty approval of Senator Simmons, Governor Aycock and the leaders of the democratic party. In that statement they said that the proposed amendment was not in conflict with either the State or the Federal constitution and that its adoption would forever settle the race issue.

The question now is as to whether or not our democratic friends will act in good faith with respect to a solemn pledge which they made on every stump in the state.

The issue which Senator Simmons seeks to raise with respect to the amendment at this juncture of our affairs cannot consistently be urged by the leaders of the democratic party. He seeks to avoid a solemn promise which he and all other democrats made in the campaign two years ago, to-wit: that the adoption of the constitutional amendment would eliminate the race issue in future campaigns, and would enable the business men of the state to exercise intellectual freedom of thought.

When the constitutional amendment was adopted by the people of the state, it then passed out of the realm of politics, and if Senator Simmons, Governor Aycock and the other leaders of the democratic party meant what they said two years ago, there can be no such thing as a race issue in the present campaign.

In this connection I desire to call attention to the fact that every registrar in North Carolina at the next election will be a democrat, and every election board will be controlled by that party. It is for the democratic party to say how many colored people shall vote at the ensuing election, and no one knows this better than Senator Simmons himself, and any attempt on his part to raise the negro question at this time is done for the purpose of diverting attention from the real issue involved in this campaign. There is no one who favors negro domination. The majority of the colored people of North Carolina are conservative, patriotic and law abiding, and Senator Simmons knows that they do not want negro domination and his efforts at this time to create a race issue do this class of people a great injustice.

State Affairs

The democratic party having demonstrated its incapacity to manage our

national affairs, the inquiry naturally arises as to whether as now constituted it can be entrusted with the management and control of the affairs of the state. I am prepared to show by evidence that is indisputable that its efforts to legislate have been inimical to our people in many instances. The revenue act passed by the last legislature is a long step in the direction of the point towards which the democratic party is rapidly drifting. Many of its provisions are different from any revenue act that has ever been adopted. While many of the objectionable features of the original bill which was introduced early in the session were eliminated, at the same time it contains many provisions that are calculated to cripple the industrial enterprises of the state, as well as oppress the farmers and business men generally. Some of the provisions of the revenue act are of such a character that our state auditor has been compelled to write a letter of apology to the officers of the various corporations doing business in the state. This letter was dated June 25, 1901. Among other things he said:

"This is a novel law for our people, and yet I do not think it is the purpose of the legislature to oppress the corporations by unjust taxes. I am sure it is not the purpose of this department to do anything of the kind.. .. .. .. I want you gentlemen to understand that it is the desire of this department to accept the appraisal which you make of your property for taxation as final."

This is indeed a remarkable document, emanating as it does from a state official. When in the history of North Carolina has the legislature enacted a revenue bill which was so odious as to require the auditor of the state, who is a sworn official, to assume the role of apologist for the acts of the legislative branch of the government? Auditor Dixon says: "I do not think it was the purpose of the legislature to oppress the corporations by an unjust tax." He was careful to avoid anything like a positive declaration to the effect that it was not the purpose of the legislature to oppress the corporations by an unjust tax. In order to placate the class of people who have been so unjustly treated by the legislature the auditor says: "I want you gentlemen to understand that it is the desire of this department to accept the appraisal which you make of your property for taxation as final." Just how the auditor reconciles this statement with the following provision contained in section 6 of the revenue act I am unable to say: "Provided that if the auditor and state treasurer, or either of them, is not satisfied with the appraisement and valuation so made and returned, they are hereby authorized and empowered to make a valuation thereof, based upon the facts contained in the report herein required or upon information within their possession and to settle in account of the valuation so made by them for taxes, penalties and interest due the state thereon.. .. .. .." with the right of appeal given to the corporation in the event that it should be dissatisfied with the rate fixed by the auditor, as therein provided.

The foregoing makes it the plain duty of the auditor and the state treasurer to revise the reports submitted by the different private corporations in the state, and to correct any mistakes that may be made, and to change the valuation fixed by them of the property returned whenever it shall appear to them that an improper valuation has been made, and the statement of the auditor that he would accept as final the report of the corporation with respect to such matters clearly indicates a purpose on his part to disregard and as far as possible tone down the harsh features of an unjust provision of our revenue act. I am informed that a number of business men have left the state since the adoption of the present revenue act rather than comply with the many vexatious provisions which it contains, and that within the past year quite a large number of corporations formed of capital which properly belonged to North Carolina have been forced to go to New Jersey for the purpose of securing articles of incorporation, in consequence of the unjust provisions in our laws with respect to such matters and I have been told since coming to Greensboro that for the same reason several corporations in Guilford county have within the past six months surrendered their charters and obtained charters in the State of New Jersey. The last legislature enacted a statute which undertakes to restrict corporations to the ownership of 300 acres of timber in the event that they should not see fit to operate mills at all times within the state and it also provides that no foreign corporation shall under any consideration be permitted to hold more than three hundred acres of land or the privilege to cut timber from a greater number of acres. This act also provides that any corporation violating its provisions shall for-

feit its right to all the timber land which it may own, also the privilege to cut timber thereon. Had it not been for capitalists from abroad, I doubt very much if we could have made much headway in the development of our lumber industry. Gentlemen of means have come among us for the purpose of investing their wealth in this industry, and in every instance it has been their purpose to purchase as large boundaries as possible, in order that they might have an investment permanent in its nature, and without which they would never have dreamed of locating in our midst. In other words, it is utterly impossible to secure the development of our lumber industry if parties who are to engage in that business are to be restricted to the ownership of not more than 300 acres of timber land, and the act in question, if properly enforced, will completely destroy the lumber business from one end of the state to the other.

Heretofore the merchants of North Carolina have been required to pay a purchase tax, but now they are required not only to pay a privilege tax but other taxes to an extent which will in my opinion, drive many of them out of business. The manner of taxing merchants is very objectionable, especially in so far as it relates to what is known as the country merchant.

His place of business is in the country and small towns, and he does not carry what is known as a general line of merchandise. The state taxes him as follows: First, capital and property tax; second, tax on all his sales; third, a tax for the privilege of doing business; fourth, a number of special taxes. These taxes represent the amount that he is required to pay to the state, and as a rule the counties levy an amount equal to the levy made by the state, and in some instances the municipalities levy an additional tax. It will be seen that the small dealer in general merchandise in the village or in the country, who is engaged in legitimate business, and one that is for the convenience of the community, is required to pay taxes out of all proportion to the capital invested. While this class of merchants should be required to pay their just proportion of taxes of the state, at the same time they ought not to be taxed in such a manner as to bankrupt them, or on the other hand force them to increase the price of the articles which they sell to the consumer, in proportion to the excessive rate of taxes levied by the state and county. Under the present revenue act the average country merchant will be either forced into bankruptcy or compelled to increase the prices of his goods and wares, thus creating a burden which will necessarily have to be borne by the people in the community, which will be in the nature of an indirect tax paid to the state, in addition to the taxes which they as individuals are required by law to pay. There can be no justification for the imposition of these taxes, and this section of our law ought to be amended so as to lighten the burden of this particular class of people.

Injustices of Taxation

There are many other unjust provisions in the revenue act wherein the citizen suffers great hardships in consequence of a failure on the part of our lawmakers to adjust the rate of taxation so as to make it bear alike on all classes of our people. The inquisitorial features of the reports required to be made by the merchants to the clerk of the board of county commissioners, as well as the reports required to be made by corporations to the auditor, are odious in the extreme, and will, in my opinion, result in compelling many firms to make assignments, that would otherwise be able, in the long run, to bridge over their financial troubles, and thus keep their heads above the water.

I have not the time to enter into a discussion of the proposed method of assessing the value of real estate, but I call attention to the fact that section 13 of the machinery act provides that real estate shall be assessed "at the full value which could ordinarily be obtained therefor at private sale." If this rule is honestly enforced in the assessment of real estate in North Carolina in the future, it will result in the citizens of the state having to pay at least one-third more taxes than they are paying at present.

We should bear in mind that many of our sister states are possessed of equal advantages with those of North Carolina, and it is suicidal on our part to enact any law which is calculated to discourage those who are likely to invest their capital in the many industries that are now being developed throughout the state. We should endeavor to encourage capitalists from all sections of the country to come among us and to assist in the development of our wonderful resources. We are peculiarly blessed with natural advantages, but in many sections we are sadly in need of the capital necessary to secure their

utilization. The prosperity which we now enjoy may not only be crippled, but it is possible for unjust legislation to completely destroy it. There is a growing tendency on the part of the democratic party in North Carolina to discriminate against private corporations. Corporations of this class get nothing from their charters except the right to perform in a corporate capacity such acts as the private citizen is entitled to do without any authority from the state. Public corporations, such as railroads, municipal corporations, street car and waterworks, exercise the right of eminent domain, and in some instances perform some of the functions of government, but it is entirely different with the private corporation, and there is no justification for levying a rate of taxation on its property in excess of that levied upon property of the individual, but when we object to the inquisitorial features with respect to private corporations, as well as the rate of taxation which they are required to pay, we are gravely informed by our democratic friends that Pennsylvania requires corporations to answer all the questions that are required to be answered by our revenue act. While this is true, the total tax levied on private corporations by the state of Pennsylvania, except such as engage in the manufacture and sale of whiskey, does not exceed five dollars on the thousand. Corporations in Asheville, Charlotte, Wilmington, Raleigh and other towns pay more than $20 on $1000 valuation. If the corporations of our cities and towns could have their taxes assessed at the rate adopted by the state of Pennsylvania, they would no doubt be willing to agree to an enlargement of the inquisitorial features of our revenue act.

Waste of Public Money

When we come to examine the auditor's reports with respect to receipts and disbursements, we find a condition of affairs that is caluculated to alarm the taxpayers of the state. In 1898 the burden of Gov. Aycock's song was to the effect that the fusion administration had collected and expended more money than had ever been expended by a democratic legislature. He insisted that the populists and republicans should be turned out of power, and that the democrats should again be entrusted with the management of our state affairs upon the ground that there was a reckless expenditure of the people's money. One would imagine that after having made such an appeal, in the event of success the democratic party would have cut down rather than increased our expenditures, but such was not the case. I desire to call your attention to the following comparison of the last three years of republican and populist control of the legislature with the last three years of democratic control, beginning with 1899. The receipts and expenditures of public funds under fusion control were as follows:

1896.

Receipts	$1,259,458.40
Expenditures	1,244,917.57
Surplus	$14,540.83

1897.

Receipts	$1,292,547.67
Expenditures	1,303,904.11
Deficiency	$ 11,356.44

1898.

Receipts	$1,334.082.24
Expenditures	1,283,971.11
Surplus	$ 50,111.13
Total amount of receipts	$3,886,088.31
Total amount of expenditures	3,832,792.79
Surplus in 3 years of fusion rule	$ 53,295.52

The following statement shows the receipts and expenditures under three years of democratic rule:

1899.

Receipts	$1,545,717.69
Expenditures	1,594,765.76
Deficiency	$ 49,048 07

1900.

Receipts	$1,618,103.91
Expenditures	1,646,384.68
Deficiency	$ 28,280.77

1901.

Receipts	$1,602,676.48
Expenditures	1,680,185.66
Deficiency	$ 77,509.18
Total amount of receipts	$4,766,498.08
Total amount of expenditures	4,921,336.10
Deficiency	154,838.02
Excess of receipts under democratic rule	$ 880,419.77
Excess of expenditures under democratic rule	1,088,545.31

It will be observed by the foregoing table that under the three years of democratic rule which we have just had they have collected from the people $880,419.77 more than was collected in

the same length of time under fusion or republican rule. This statement also shows that they have expended the enormous sum of $1,088,545.31 more in the three years of democratic rule than was expended during the same time under republican or fusion rule.

One would infer from Senator Simmons' statements that there was no increase in appropriations for any of the state institutions during republican and populist rule, but such is not the case. I call attention to the fact that there was an increased appropriation for the year 1898 for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind new building and remodeling the old one, which amounted to $53,463.00. There was also an increase for the Deaf and Dumb asylum at Morganton which amounted to $20,000.00. There was also an increase in the appropriation for the Insane asylum at Raleigh for the year 1895 of $20,636.00, for the Deaf and Dumb asylum at Morganton of $20,850.00 and an increase of $3,633.00 for the Western hospital at Morganton, as well as an increase of $3,525.00 for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind school at Raleigh.

After meeting all these increased expenses, there was in the state treasury January 19, 1901, when it was turned over by Treasurer Worth to Mr. Lacy, a cash balance of $37,528.36. This is a splendid showing, and is sufficient within itself to convince any fair-minded person that the fusion party while in power administered our state affairs in a more satisfactory and economical manner than they are being administered by the present administration.

The Biblical Recorder of August 6th, 1902, in an article in regard to the deficit in the state treasury, among other things, says:

"Conservative members of the general assemblies of 1899 and 1901 fought hard against the pressure for appropriation; they predicted a deficit, but not one of them dreamed that it would amount to $450,000.00, but the estimate of the deficit that now confronts the state treasurer is the rise of this figure. $200,000.00 has been borrowed by the state treasurer, and a number of the institutions of the state, finding it impossible to collect the appropriations made to them, have borrowed. It is conservative to put the total deficit at $450,000.00."

The Biblical Recorder is a non-partisan paper, and I am sure that no one will undertake to say that its statement is exaggerated in the slightest degree. On the other hand, I am inclined to the opinion that a thorough examination of all the expenditures made by the present state administration will disclose the fact that the Biblical Recorder has underestimated the amount of the deficit which exists at this time.

Some time since it became rumored that the present state administration had been forced to borrow money in order to meet current expenses. In view of the enormous amount of money that was being collected from the people by way of taxation annually, I was not inclined to credit the statement, but after receiving information from a reliable source that the statement was true, I decided to write to the State Treasurer in regard to the matter. During the latter part of June I addressed a letter to the state treasurer, in which I requested information as to whether or not the state administration had been forced to borrow money for the purpose of meeting current expenses, and on July 8th I received the following letter from the treasurer:

"On my return to the city I found your letter of recent date. I will, within a few days, send you the information you request."

I waited patiently for the information until the 16th day of July, when I received the following letter from the state treasurer, which was dated July 15th:

"In answer to your favor of recent date, I desire to say that in March I borrowed for 12 months, at 4½ per cent, $200,000."

I am at a loss to know why the state treasurer should have delayed answering my letter from the 8th until the 15th day of July under the circumstances. If the ordinary business methods obtain in the state treasurer's office he could have turned to his books on the 8th day of July and secured for me the information which he refused to give until the 15th day of July, if he did not already possess it. The same mail which brought the treasurer's letter containing the desired information also brought the evening papers which contained the speech of Senator Simmons in which he gave the public information I had been endeavoring to secure for the past two or three weeks. Can it be possible that the state administration was of the opinion that it would somewhat break the force of the treasurer's admission to me by having it first reach the public through the chair-

North Carolina State Library
Raleigh

man of the democratic state executive committee.

To say the least of it, there is something mysterious about the conduct of the state treasurer, and while I can see nothing in the transaction that would require secrecy or evasion on the part of the state treasurer I cannot understand why he should have delayed giving me the information as long as he did. The fact that the present state democratic administration has been forced to borrow money in order to meet current expenses is nothing unusual in so far as that party's management of public affairs is concerned. In attempting to explain this transaction to the state convention, Senator Simmons said:

"On account of the insufficiency of the revenues to carry out the will of the people with respect to these great objects, the present administration has been compelled to borrow $200,000. While the necessity for this loan is to be regretted, this money was borrowed to carry out the emphatic mandate of the people with reference to the schools and the asylums, and every dollar of it has been spent for the schools and the asylums. This is not the first time there has been a deficit of revenues to meet appropriations in North Carolina. The fusionists, when in power, although they made no extra appropriations for the schools and the asylums, had also to deal with a deficit. Not a deficit of $200,000, but a deficit of $250,000. To meet this deficit they sold $140,000 of North Carolina bonds which the economy of the democratic administration had accumulated in the treasuery as a sinking fund to pay the public debt, and used the proceeds from the sale of these bonds to pay public expenses."

This is a lame attempt on the part of Senator Simmons to justify the action of the present state administration in borrowing money to meet the current expenses of the state government. The statement that the republicans and fusionists are responsible for the sale of the bonds to which he refers is without foundation. He knows that the treasurer was forced to sell these bonds for the purpose of meeting a deficiency created by a democratic legislature. An examination of the treasurer's report will show that there was not a dollar borrowed nor any bonds issued during the time that the expenditures of the state were directed by the fusion legislatures of 1895 and 1897. By reference to page 9 of the Biennial report of the treasurer of North Carolina for the two fiscal years ending November 30th, 1899, and November 30th, 1900, it will be seen that in 1885, the state treasurer, having a surplus of money, bought in certain state bonds, and held them as an investment for the state, and that all of these bonds except $136,750 were sold by the democratic administration. In referring to the matter State Treasurer Worth says:

"In 1885 the treasurer, under section 3577 of the Code, as amended by chapter 403, laws of 1885, invested in North Carolina 4 per cent. consolidated bonds an accumulated surplus of special taxes levied and collected for the purpose of paying interest on said bonds. The amount then thus invested was $247,-815.96, with which he purchased $272,-250 of bonds, at an average cost of 91.02 per cent.

"This investment had been sold from, as funds were needed with which to pay the 4 per cent. interest, until my predecessor delivered to me only $136,-750 of these bonds."

The bonds sold by Mr. Worth were not sold until 1900, and the sale was made necessary by the acts of the democratis legislature of 1899. I am informed that no money was borrowed by the state treasurer prior to 1900, and no bonds were issued except new bonds in exchange for old bonds in compromise and settlement of the state debt under the act of 1879. The treasurer's reports for different years will show that Mr. Bain sold in 1889, $100,592.45 worth of bonds; that Mr. Bain sold in 1892, $20,-650 worth of bonds; and that Mr. Tate sold in 1894 $10,150 worth of bonds making the total sale by democratic treasurers under democratic administrations of $131,392.45. I call Senator Simmons' attention to the fact that while this sum of money was realized for the bonds sold, their face value amounted to the sum of $135,000.00; that is, the credit of North Carolina was such under democratic rule that the different treasurers were compelled to sell these bonds at less than their face value. I also call his attention to the fact that Mr. Worth sold his bonds at a premium, thus affording us indisputable evidence of the fact that our credit under republican and populist rule was far superior to that of democratic rule.

These facts not only show that our democratic friends have been compelled to borrow money in order to meet the current expenses of the state administration, but they also refute the statement made by Senator Simmons in which he undertakes to justify the ac-

tion of the present administration by the statement that the republicans and populists had been compelled to do the same thing while they were in control of our state affairs.

This record is in keeping with the one which our democratic friends have made with respect to the management of our national affairs. As I have already stated, they were compelled to borrow $262,000,000 during Cleveland's administration, and it is but fair to assume that the sum which they have already borrowed in this state is but a mere bagatelle as compared to what they will be compelled to borrow in the future.

Senator Simmons admitted in his speech the other day that they had expended more money under the three years of democratic rule than had been expended in the same length of time under republican rule, but he undertook to justify the action of the state administration upon the ground that the increase in expenditures was due to the payment of money for the education of the children of the state, etc.

Senator Simmons insists that a large portion of these expenditures are for the benefit of Confederate pensioners, and would have us believe that ample provision has been made for all who served in the Confederate army and are now incapacitated for manual labor, but he failed to mention the fact that $200,000.00 is the limit beyond which the state treasurer cannot go in the payment of pensions to this unfortunate class of people. I call attention to the following statement taken from the Raleigh Post, a democratic paper, with respect to the increase in the number of applicants under the recent act, and its effect on those who are now drawing pensions:

"An exceptionally large number of applications for pensions to Confederate veterans are being received in the office of the state auditor. They are pouring in on every mail, and there is every reason to believe that the total number will be far in excess of those for any previous year. Of course none of those now drawing pensions will have to apply, so every successful applicant will be a new pensioner. If the applications received are allowed the pensions will all be greatly reduced. Those now in hand would so reduce the per capita allowances that where a veteran now receives $20 he could scarcely get next year under the re-apportionment more than $14 or $15."

The statement makes it clear that instead of increasing the pension of Confederate soldiers, the recent legislation will have the effect to reduce the small sums paid to this worthy class of peopel. There is no limitation fixed when it comes to expending money for the impeachment of the Supreme court judges for partisan purposes, nor is there any limitation when it comes to the expenditure of money for the payment of expenses of those who have violated election laws in order that the democratic party may be perpetuated in power in the state of North Carolina, and the taxpayers are calmly advised by the democratic leaders that they must "grin and bear it" as these things are done in order that we may have good government.

He forgot to tell us about the $7,-699.39 that was expended in the impeachment trial of the republican judges who were declared to be innocent by a democratic legislature. The effort to convict these judges was inspired by those who desired to secure control of the Supreme court for partisan purposes, and is but another evidence of the extent to which the machine democrats of North Carolina will go when in quest of office.

He also neglected to tell us about the democratic legislature increasing the governor's salary one thousand dollars within ten days after the legislature assembled. This increase was made in the face of the fact that he is furnished a mansion with all expenses paid, the rent of which, in any city, would be at least $15,000.00 per annum. Governor Russell and the other predecessors of Governor Aycock served the people of North Carolina for a salary of $3000.00 per annum, but in order that the people of the state should have the full benefit of "good government" it was decided by a democratic legislature that the governor's salary should be increased.

He also neglected to say anything about the payment of expenses incurred by the registrars who were indicted for violation of the United States laws in refusing to register duly qualified voters. The last legislature among other things passed a law authorizing the payment of all expenses incurred by the election officials who violated the law at the election at which the members of the legislature were chosen. Many of the members were indebted to the indicted election officials for the certificates of election which they held, and their action with respect to appropriating money to be used for the purpose of defending this class of individuals

shows that these gentlemen were possessed of a spirit of gratitude, to say the least of it, but I am inclined to the opinion that the average taxpayer of the state will insist that they ought to have used their individual funds instead of requiring the people of the state to defray the expenses of those who were indicted for crime committed in the performance of heroic service in their behalf. It is bad enough to wink at those who commit election frauds, but this action on the part of the democratic legislature wherein the violation of law by election officials is recognized by statute is something new in the way of legislation.

Increase of Judges

We have heard a great deal of talk about republican extravagance in the past, and we were told in 1876 that we had too many judges, etc., and that if the democrats ever got into power, instead of increasing the number of officers in the state, there would be a gradual reduction in every department until we were placed upon a Jeffersonian basis. However, in utter disregard of its pledges, the last democratic legislature increased the number of judges from 12 to 16, thereby creating a number of nice positions for democratic politicians in different parts of the state. The increase of judges in my opinion was entirely unnecessary. I am satisfied you will bear me out in the statement that 12 judges were able to dispatch all the business that was to be found upon the court dockets in the various counties in the state. It is no uncommon thing to have a judge only spend one or two days at a court, and they rarely ever consume the full time allotted by law except in the larger cities where the dockets are somewhat congested. The districts could easily have been rearranged and the work more equitably distributed and adjusted so that 12 judges could have transacted the business without inconvenience, but our democratic friends had a number of patriots on their hands whose condition was such that nothing short of an office could bring peace and harmony in the democratic councils. The last legislature devoted much of its time to the creation of new offices, and I am informed by a distinguished Superior court judge that before the democrats left Raleigh each member and senator filed a laborers' lien on some one of the positions that had been created. In some instances there was a conflict as to the rights of individuals, especially in cases where liens had been filed on a particular place by a number of legislators, and in such cases Gov. Aycock, sitting as a chancellor, was very much embarrassed, and I am told that although he could not give every member of the legslature an office, at the same time he recognized the rights of those who had filed liens, giving preference of course to those who had voted for the impeachment of the judges.

There are many other instances wherein expenditures have been increased, but I will not undertake on this occasion to enter into details.

Education Talk Is Late

The democratic platform recently adopted at Greensboro declares in favor of educating the people. This declaration comes rather late, especially when we consider the record of the democratic party during its lease of power prior to 1895. I am glad to know that the democrats are at last willing to join hands with the republicans in their efforts to educate the people, realizing as we do that the education of the masses will result in more good to the people than any other one thing that can be done by those who are entrusted with the management of our state affairs. From 1870 until 1895 the democratic party was in control of the legislative branch of the government and from 1876 to 1895 they were in control of the executive branch and during that time illiteracy among those of 21 years of age and upwards increased on an average of about 1000 per annum, while on the other hand the republican party in 1868 provided for the common schools of the state by inserting a clause in our state constitution which favors secures to the poor children of the state a system of free schools. It was the alliance members of the legislature, aided by the republicans, that increased the school tax to 16 cents in 1891, and it was the populist and republican legislature that increased it to 18 cents. The increase in valuation of real and personal property for the years 1897 and 1898 resulted in an increase in the school fund or about $54,000.00, and with these facts staring Senator Simmons in the face, he declared at the recent democratic convention that there had been no increase in the public school fund during the republican and populist administration.

According to the census, 23 per cent of the white people of North Carolina can neither read nor write. The recent amendment adopted to our state consti-

NORTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY

tution provides that of those who come of age after 1908 only those who can read and write the constitution in the English language will be permitted to vote. It is utterly impossible to talk about reducing the per cent. of illiteracy so as to enable every white man to vote under that provision of the constitution. Massachusetts, with her fine educational system and splendid school facilities, has only been able to reduce the rate of illiteracy in that state 1-4 of 1 per cent per annum, and under the most favorable conditions at least 20 per cent of the white people of North Carolina will be denied the right to vote under this provision of our constitution, and will be thereby classed with the illiterate negro and the felons of the state. According to Senator Simmons' admission, about 18,000 white people have already been denied the right to vote under the poll tax provision, the payment of which was purposely fixed on the first day of May with a view of getting rid of as many poor people as possible. Gov. Aycock and other leaders of the democratic party assured our people that not a single white man would be disfranchised by law, and behold, 18,000, many of whom are the descendants of those who followed Lee and Jackson on the one hand, and Grant and Sherman on the other, have been denied the right to vote. If this unfortunate class of people had been given an opportunity to pay their poll tax on or before election day, many of those who are now disfranchised could have qualified to vote. This class of people who are required to work the public roads and in time of war go to the front and fight the nation's battles, and who are required to perform other public duties, should not under any circumstances be denied the right of casting their votes for those who are to administer our public affairs.

The democratic party has nominated for chief justice of the Supreme court a man whose record as a judge is of such a character as to justify me in the assertion that he is not the proper person to occupy the exalted position to which he has been nominated. It is a well known fact that a majority of the lawyers of the state of North Carolina were opposed to the nomination of Judge Clark. It is also true that a majority of those who control and manage our business affairs were opposed to his nomination, but in the face of all this opposition he was nominated with almost unanimity by the democratic convention. The nomination of Judge Clark under the circumstances affords us a forcible illustration of the powerful influence of the democratic machine in North Carolina. Although the people of the state preferred another, it was decreed by those who were in control of the party machinery in North Carolina that one who was in full sympathy with the legislation enacted by the last general assembly should be nominated.

When we come to consider the policy of the democratic party in the state with respect to corporations and our business interests generally I am not at all surprised at the nomination of Judge Clark, and I am free to confess that in my opinion he is the ablest exponent of the ideas entertained by the machine democrats that could have been found within our borders. His nomination should cause every conservative business man to join with those who are in favor of a fair and impartial administration of our laws in an effort to secure the election of some one as chief justice who will command the confidence of all classes of our people.

North Carolina State Library
Raleigh

GC 329.01 P961b

Pritchard, Jeter Connelly.
The brightest day of Republicanism : a

3 3091 00172 5621

DATE DUE

GAYLORD PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Gaylord
PAMPHLET BINDER
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.

NORTH CAROLINIANA

RESTRICTED

329.01
P961b

Pritchard

"The brightest day of Republicanism"